Governing body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation

1350. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who has been included as a Member of the Governing Body of Dr. Ambedkar Foundation through resolution of the Governing Body dated 4th July, 1997, has been excluded now; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No Sir.

(b) Shri H. Hanumanthappa, former Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was appointed as a member of the Governing Body in his individual capacity.

Review of performance of Central Schemes in States

1351. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the performance of Central schemes in various States during the last three years including the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof scheme-wise and year-wise and State-wise by standard parameters;

(c) the details of new schemes proposed/launched, coverage, objectives, targets, State-wise investment break-up, number of beneficiaries, physical targets and involvement of NGOs; and

(d) the detials of misuse of funds reported from the States and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Minority status for Hindus

1352. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of States having minority status for Hindus;

(b) whether they are getting any benefit; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) As per information available, none of the States have declared Minority Status for Hindus.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The question as to who constitutes a minority is the subject matter of a Writ Petition in the Supreme Court. The final decision in the matter of providing minority status will depend on the decision of the Supreme Court.

राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग वित्त निगम द्वारा ऋण

1353. **श्री खान गुफरान जाहिदी:** क्या सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग वित्त निगम द्वारा वर्ष 1996-97 और 1997-98 के दौरान कितने लोगों को ऋण उपलब्ध कराया गया; और

(ख) उपर्युक्त निगम की ऋण उपलब्धता एवं ऋण ग्राह्यता तथा इससे वसूली की जाने वाली ब्याज दर क्या है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती मेनका गांधी): (क) वर्ष 1996-97, 1997-98 के दौरान जिन व्यक्तियों को ऋण